

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 003512  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:FGWISNER:SBA  
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY  
AF:WESCHAUFLE, JR.  
S/S- SESTEINER

-----070302Z 098745 /63  
O 070243Z JAN 77 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 003512

NODIS  
FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR,RH

SUBJECT: JOSHUA NKOMO AND THE SAUDIS

REF: STATE 129; STATE 190448

1. OUR ASSESSMENT OF NKOMO AND HIS POTENTIAL HAS NOT CHANGED SUBSTANTIALLY FROM THE INFORMATION WE PROVIDED IN STATE 190448. DURING THE COURSE OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, NKOMO PROVED HIMSELF TO BE A TOUGH AND WILY NEGOTIATOR. HIS ALLIANCE WITH MUGABE AND MUGABE'S RADICAL COHORTS, THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS IS AN UNEASY, TACTICAL ARRANGEMENT AND HAS NOT INDUCED NKOMO TO ABANDON HIS PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO RHODESIA'S FUTURE.

2. NKOMO IS ESSENTIALLY A MAN INTERESTED IN POWER. HE KEEPS HIS LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS OPEN TO RADICALS AND  
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MODERATES IN AFRICA, AS WELL AS TO OURSELVES AND THE SOVIETS. HE ENJOYS BROAD AFRICAN SUPPORT. PRIOR TO AND DURING GENEVA, NKOMO HAS IMPROVED HIS POSITION WITH THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS AND THE AFRICANS MOST INTERESTED IN RHODESIA'S FUTURE. IT IS IN OUR INTERESTS TO MAKE SURE THAT AS MANY MODERATES AS POSSIBLE, INCLUDING THE SAUDIS, ARE IN TOUCH WITH HIM. FOR THE REASONS YOU

CITED AS WELL AS THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING A POSITION

OF NEUTRALITY DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS, WE HAVE NOT  
EMBRACED NKOMO AND HIS FACTION.

3. THOUGH BETTER FINANCED THAN MOST, NKOMO'S NEEDS ARE  
CONSIDERABLE. HE OPERATES AN EXTENSIVE POLITICAL  
NETWORK IN RHODESIA, AND MAINTAINS A SIGNIFICANT EXTERNAL  
POLITICAL AND MILITARY ORGANIZATION. HE IS CERTAIN TO  
ASK THE SAUDIS FOR SUPPORT.  
KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATIONALISTS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, CAT-B  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE003512  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** FGWISNER:SBA  
**Enclosure:** FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY  
**Executive Order:** X3  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JOSHUA NKOMO AND THE SAUDIS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PDEV, PINR, RH, SA, (NKOMO, JOSHUA)  
**To:** JIDDA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009